

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00328 091832Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CU-04 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NIC-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5135

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR CASC (FRIEDMAN, MARTIN)(FEDICHEVA, KALERIA IVANOVNA)

SUBJ: SOVIET ACTION TO ANNUL BALLERINA'S MARRIAGE TO AMCIT

REF: MOSCOW 289, LENINGRAD 0022

1. FRIEDMAN TELEPHONED CONSOLL FROM OFFICE AMCONSUL LENINGRAD MID-AFTERNOON JAN 9 TO REPORT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MARRIAGE CASE. ON RETURN TO LENINGRAD FROM MOSCOW JAN 8 FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN OBTAINED LOCAL DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE DECLARING SHE REQUIRED IMMEDIATE HOSPITALIZATION (FRIEDMAN REPORTS THAT SHE IS GENUINELY ILL AT THIS POINT). AS RESULT KUIBYSHEVSKI DISTRICT COURT PROCEEDING TO ANNUL MARRIAGE WAS CANCELLED JANUARY 9.

2. LATER ON JANUARY 9, HOWEVER, CHIEF DOCTOR FROM HOSPITAL IN WHICH FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN WAS TO BE HOSPITALIZED, CALLED ON BALLERINA, DECLARED HER HEALTHY, AND SEIZED DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING HER HOSPITALIZATION. AS RESULT, ANNULMENT PROCEEDING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MORNING JAN 10. FEDICHEVA-

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00328 091832Z

FRIEDMAN HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND; SHE FEELS

(PROBABLY JUSTIFIABLY) THAT JUDGMENT WILL BE AGAINST HER
WHETHER SHE ATTENDS OR NOT.

3. FRIEDMAN TOLD CONSOLL HE PLANS TO RETURN TO MOSCOW
AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED JAN 10, VISIT EMBASSY IN AFTERNOON,
AND CONTACT WESTERN JOURNALISTS. HE REITERATED OVER TELE-
PHONE HIS DETERMINATION TO PUBLICIZE CASE.

4. PRESS GUIDANCE: IF CORRESPONDENTS SUBSEQUENTLY
APPROACH EMBASSY IN CASE, AS EXPECTED, WE PROPOSE TO
CONFIRM THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATION TO MFA (CONSULAR
ADMINISTRATION) WAS MADE JANUARY 8. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WOULD
FURTHER INDICATE, IF ASKED, THAT REPRESENTATION WAS BASED
ON AMCIT FRIEDMAN'S COMPLAINT ABOUT SOVIET ACTION TO ANNUL
HIS MARRIAGE, AND THAT EMBASSY CALLED ON MFA TO USE INFLUENCE
TO OBTAIN SUSPENSION OR DELAY LENINGRAD PROCEEDINGS IN ORDER
TO INVESTIGATE. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WOULD INDICATE MFA OFFICIALS
AGREED TO INVESTIGATE BUT AS OF COB JANUARY 9 HAD NOT CALLED
EMBASSY.

5. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: FRIEDMAN INDICATES HE HAD NOT BEEN
PREVIOUSLY MARRIED. HE IS 30 YEARS OLD, JEWISH; WE HAVE NOT
DETERMINED WHETHER FEDICHEVA-FRIEDMAN IS JEWISH. HER AGE IS 36.
MARRIAGE WAS WITNESSED BY TWO AMCONSUL OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT
OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS TO MARRIAGE (FORM FS-87) WAS
ISSUED AND SIGNED BY VICE CONSUL SCHORER.

6. COMMENT: WHILE IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO ANALYZE RATIONALE
SOVIETS BEHAVIOR IN LENINGRAD, IT SHOULD BE VIEWED IN
LIGHT OF NUREYEV AND MAKAROVA DEFECTIONS, PANOV TRIALS
AND PERHAPS EVEN IMPENDING KIROV VISIT TO US, TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1974. IN EMBASSY VIEW, LOGICAL NEXT MOVE
IN SUPPORT OF AMCIT INTEREST INVOLVED IN THIS POTENTIALLY
SENSITIVE US-SOVIET MARRIAGE CASE WOULD BE*DELIVERY FORMAL
DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MFA REQUESTINW INVESTIGATION AND
EXPLANATION OF ENTIRE SERIES OF EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THIS
COUPLE'S JANUARY 2 MARRIAGE.
EXEMPT SOMMERLATTE

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